

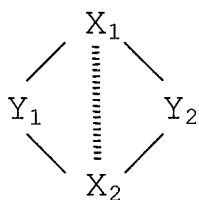
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Inventors: **Damha et al.**
Serial No.: **10/748,475**
Filing Date: **December 30, 2003**
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): A composition for inhibiting the RNase H activity of a retrovirus reverse transcriptase comprising an inhibitory agent of Formula I:



Formula I

wherein,

X₁ and X₂ are antiparallel complementary oligonucleotide strands that associate to form a duplex;

X₁ is 2 to 24 nucleotides in length;

X₂ is 2 to 24 nucleotides in length;

Y₁ is 2 to 8 nucleotides in length;

Y₂ is 2 to 8 nucleotides in length;

at least one of Y₁ or Y₂ is 4 to 8 nucleotides in length;

Y₁ and Y₂ each independently contain a ribonucleic acid; 2',5'-linked ribonucleic acid; or combination thereof wherein a Y₁ or Y₂ of at least 4 nucleotides comprises the sequence 5'-UUYG-3'/2' (SEQ ID NO:1); and

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wherein the inhibitory agent binds to the RNase H domain of retrovirus reverse transcriptase thereby inhibiting the RNase H activity thereof.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein X_1 and X_2 of Formula I are comprised of 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid; deoxyribonucleic acid; 2',5'-linked ribonucleic acid; arabinonucleic acid; 2'-fluoro-arabinonucleic acid; locked nucleic acid; peptide nucleic acids; or a combination thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein X_1 and X_2 of Formula I are comprised of 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein X_1 and X_2 of Formula I are comprised of deoxyribonucleic acid.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein X_1 and X_2 of Formula I are comprised of a combination of 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein X_1 and X_2 of Formula I are 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid and are 4 to 10 nucleotides in length.

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Claim 17 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein Y_1 and Y_2 are a 3',5'-linked tetraribonucleotide of the sequence 5'-UUYG-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 18 (previously presented): A composition of claim 11, wherein said composition is a cyclic structure.

Claim 19 (new): The composition of claim 11, wherein the inhibitory agent comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:9.